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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/410,160	09/30/1999	RISTO BELL	0325.00239	6460

21363 7590 03/24/2003

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2123

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/410,160	BELL ET AL. <i>(Signature)</i>
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Eduardo Garcia-Otero	2123

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 26 February 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): See Continuation Sheet.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See continuation sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a)a) approved or b)b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)(PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. Other: _____.

ADVISORY ACTION

Introduction

1. Title is: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED ENUMERATION, SIMULATION, IDENTIFICATION AND/OR IRRADIATION OF DEVICE ATTRIBUTES
2. First Named Inventor is: BELL
3. Claims 1-20 are pending, and have been examined and rejected.
4. Applicant has filed a Response After Final, received 2/26/03.
5. This is the fourth action, and is an Advisory Action.

Remarks-35 USC 112 first paragraph (enable)

6. Applicant's assertions are persuasive with respect to Claims 10, 18, and 19, and these enablement rejections are withdrawn.
7. Applicant's assertions are not persuasive with Claims 1 and 7, and these enablement rejections are maintained.

Remarks-35 USC 112 second paragraph (indefinite)

8. Applicant's assertions are persuasive with respect to Claims 18, and 19, and these indefiniteness rejections are withdrawn.
9. Applicant's assertions are not persuasive with Claims 7, and this indefiniteness rejection is maintained.

Remarks-35 USC 103-prior art

10. Applicant unpersuasively asserts that none of the prior art rejections are valid. These rejections are maintained.
11. Regarding Claim 1 (amended) and Kablanian US Patent 5,764,878. Claim 1 (amended) limitation (C) states "simulating said design with at least one of said fuses programmed for said repair to verify said repair".
12. Page 13 of Applicant's Response After Final states "In contrast, the claims provide verifying the repair after simulating the repair."
13. Note that Kablanian Column 2 line 4 states "The next process is one of analysis. External software is used to determine optimal utilization of the redundant memory lines to repair defective memory lines." The Examiner interprets this "External software is used" as

including simulation software which simulates the repair, in the view of one of ordinary skill in the art.

14. Further, Kablanian Column 2 line 7 states "the third process is the repair process" and Column 2 line 11 states "The final process involves retesting the chip".
15. Thus, Kablanian does appear to provide verifying the repair after simulating the repair.
16. Note that Applicant appears to interpret limitation (C) as multiple steps: simulating the repair, and verifying the repair. Page 13 of Applicant's Response After Final states "In contrast, the claims provide verifying the repair after simulating the repair." The Examiner suggests that limitation (C) should be amended to make it more clear that limitation (C) has multiple steps. Making the repair also appears to be an inherent step.
17. See MPEP 608.01(m) "Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element of the claim should be separated by a line indentation, 37 CFR 1.75(i)."

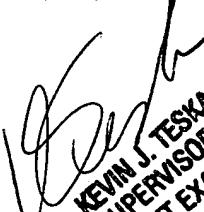
Summary

18. Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph (enablement).
19. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph (indefinite).
20. Claims 1-20 (all claims) stand rejected under 35 USC 103.

Communication

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eduardo Garcia-Otero whose telephone number is 703-305-0857. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
22. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska, can be reached at (703) 305-9704. The fax phone numbers for this group are:
23. (703) 746-7238 --- for communications after a Final Rejection has been made;
24. (703) 746-7239 --- for other official communications; and
25. (703) 746-7240 --- for non-official or draft communications.
26. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-8900.

* * * * *



KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER